Production capacity of Kota Nuclear Power Plant

2343. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production capacities in Kota Nuclear Power Plant has been reduced from 220 MW to 150 MW;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how safe are our Atomic Power Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The original design capacity of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Kota (RAPS 1 & 2) was 220 MWe each in view of light water leakage from end shield of RAPS-1, the unit was re-rated from 230 MWe to 100 MWe w.e.f. 1.1.1992. In the year 1994, RAPS-1 was shutdown due to Over Pressure Relief Device (OPRD) leak. The actual job was taken up in February 1997 after developing proper technique to plug the leak and the unit was rehabilitated, restarted and synchronised to the grid in March 1997. Its power level was gradually raised to 150 MWe in July 1997, which is the maximum power level allowed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). RAPS-2 was re-rated from 220 MWe to 200 MWe w.e.f. 1.4.91 due to constaints on both cooling water temperature and reactor parameters.

(c) Atomic Power Stations in India are designed based on defence-in-depth concept with multiple barriers including containment to prevent escape of radioactivity to the environment. These power stations are constructed in accordance with the established codes to meet stringent quality standards and are operated based on technical specifications approved by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). There are also approved operating procedures which are periodically updated which safely govern and guide all important operations carried out in the plant. The plant operators are well qualified and skilled. They are specifically authorised/qualified by AERB to carry out the various levels of operations at the plant. AERB has stipulated the limits for releases from the Atomic power

stations through air and liquid routes to the environment. These are strictly complied with. There is also an Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) functioning at each atomic power station which monitors the environmental status of flora and fauna within a radius of 30 Kms of the plants.

Proposal to set up new nuclear power Plants

2344. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when they would be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPRTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) apart from completing and commissioning the ongoing projects of a total capacity of 880 MWe. comprising of the Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 (2×220 MWe), the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units 3&4 (2×220 MWe), proposals for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include 2×500 MWe plant at Tarapur (TAPP 3&4) and additional 2×220 MWe Unit at Kaiga (Kaiga 3&4), besides commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2×1000 MWe Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian assistance.

(c) Two on-going projects, Rajasthan Atomic Power Project-3&4 (2×220 MWe) in Rajasthan and construction of Unit-1 of Kaiga Atomic Power Project (220 MWe) in Katnataka are nearing completion. Unit-2 of the Kaiga Atomic Power Project has already been synchronised to the grid on 2.12.99. RAPP Unit-3 is expected to attain criticality by end December 99 and the expected criticality dates of remaining two units (Kaiga-1 and RAPP-4) are June 2000 and November 2000. Work on setting up of another 2×500 MWe Atomic Power Project at Tarapur (TAPP-3&4) commenced in October 1998 and the expected criticality dates of these units are July 2006 and October 2005 respectively.